

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FOR GEORGE DALLEY, IO FROM SORENSON

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION

1. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR HARRY JAY TELEPHONED TODAY TO ADVISE THAT THE LAST DAY OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ON AUGUST 25 WILL BE DEVOTED TO MAKING STATEMENTS ON NAMIBIA.
2. JAY SAID THAT HE PLANS TO MEET NEXT WEEK WITH THE AMBASSADORS OF FRANCE, THE U.K. AND WEST GERMANY - PROBABLY ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16 - TO CONCERT THEIR VIEWS. AMONG THE QUESTIONS THEY WILL DECIDE, FOR EXAMPLE, IS WHETHER THEY SHOULD MAKE A COMMON STATEMENT AND WHETHER SUCH A STATEMENT COULD BE SAID TO REFLECT THE VIEWS OF ALL FIVE COUNTRIES TAKING THE LEAD ON A NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT.
3. OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING IS THAT, SINCE WE ARE NOT A PARTICIPANT OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND

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RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, IT WOULD BE AWKWARD TO HAVE THE FOUR ISSUE A STATEMENT WHICH PURPORTED TO SPEAK ON OUR BEHALF. MOREOVER, SINCE THE US ROLE IS CRITICAL TO ANY SETTLEMENT OF THE NAMIBIA QUESTION IT WOULD SEEM EQUALLY IMPROPER FOR THE FOUR TO MAKE A COMMON STATEMENT INDEPENDENTLY OF THE US. THIS BEING THE CASE, IT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE THAT EACH OF THE OTHER FOUR SHOULD SPEAK FOR

ITSELF IN THE CONFERENCE ON THIS QUESTION.

4. UNLESS THE MISSION HEARS OTHERWISE I WOULD PLAN TO ATTEND THE CONSULTATIONS NEXT WEEK AMONG THE FOUR ON HOW TO HANDLE THE NAMIBIA QUESTIDN. I WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S DETAILED GUIDANCE ON THE POSITION I SHOULD TAKE.

4. ON A SEPARATE SUBJECT WE HAVE HEARD THAT, ON AUGUST 9 THE ARAB REGIONAL GROUP FORMED A FIVE-MAN COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A COMMON PLATFORM. THIS FIVE-MAN GROUP HAS NOT MET YET, HOWEVER, AND THE ARAB REGIONAL GROUP HAS FORMED NO SPECIFIC PLAN OTHER THAN TO PUSH THEIR POLICY OF LINKING ZIONISM WITH RACISM AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, ESPECIALLY - AND MOST ALARMINGLY - IN THE CONFERENCE'S FINAL DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION. SORENSON

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